

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 081527Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7177

UNCLAS CARACAS 0213

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ MEDITATES ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
POLICY AND COMMENTS ON LATTER

REF: CARACAS 202, CARACAS 119, CARACAS 12708

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ RETURNED TO CARACAS AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 7 AFTER SPENDING TWO DAYS AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AT MACUTO. DURING THIS TIME HE MET WITH EX-PRESIDENT BETANCOURT, AD PARTY CHIEF AND PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS GONZALO BARRIOS AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET, PROVOKING INTENSE SPECULATION THAT THE CABINET IS ABOUT TO BE RESHUFFLED. ON HIS RETURN TO CARACAS PEREZ TOLD PRESS THAT "IN DUE COURSE" THERE WILL BE CABINET CHANGES, WHICH "ARE NORMAL WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM." (SEE CARACAS 12708).

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT WHILE AT MACUTO PEREZ DISCUSSED WITH HIS ADVISORS VENEZUELA'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., PARTICULARLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW U.S. TRADE LAW; PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE OAS; AND HIS IMPEDING VISITS ABROAD (CARACAS 202).

3. AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN CARACAS, PRESIDENT PEREZ PUBLICLY DESCRIBED THE U.S. TRADE LAW AS "AN ACT OF ECONOMIC AGGRESSION." PEREZ ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD DELIVERED TO ALL THE
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AMBASSADORS HERE OF COUNTRIES MEMBER OF THE OAS OF A LATTER

HE HAD SENT TO THE OTHER LATIN AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE
"INVITING THEM TO UNITE OUR FORCES AND OUR EFFORTS TO CARRY
THE PROPOSAL (FOR AN OAS COUNCIL MEETING) TO THE OAS, WHERE WE
WISH TO DISCUSS IN A SPIRIT OF CORDIALITY AND UNDERSTANDING
THIS MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH TREATENS, AS NEVER BEFORE,
OUR POSSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT." (THIS ACTION IMPLEMENTS
PEREZ' INTENTION STATED
IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF HIS JANUARY 4 TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT
RODRIGUEZ LARA OF ECUADOR CALLING FOR AN OAS COUNCIL
MEETING CARACAS 119).
MILLS

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